

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of this application. The specification and claim 3 were amended to correct clerical errors. Claim 4 was amended to clarify aspects of the present invention. No new matter was added. Claims 1-6 are currently pending in this application.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTION

The title of the invention was objected to as not being indicative to which the claims are directed. Applicant has amended the title to --BASE-DETACHABLE HINGE STRUCTURE FOR MOBILE PHONE--.

Withdrawal of the specification objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murray (U.S. Patent No. 5,996,178). Applicant respectfully traverses for the following reasons.

Murray apparently discloses a foldable device that includes two housings rotatably coupled by a hinge about an axis of rotation. The hinge has a stationary element and a movable element positioned in a pocket of one of the housings. The movable element is restricted to movement along the axis of rotation.

Regarding claim 1 and referring to figures 2-3 of Murray, the display unit (204) does not include a first hinge hole (aperture 3854) and a first hinge spindle (can 3810). The can (3810) of figure 3 is associated with the hinge (3800) rather than Murray's display unit (204). The can (3810) is used to pass through the aperture (3854). Murray's display unit is different from the display unit (204) in claim 1 of the invention.

Referring to figures 3-4 of Murray, Murray's hinge (3800) does not include a second hinge spindle to fit the first hinge hole (aperture 3854). The hinge (3800) includes a cam (3820),

a follower (3804) and a spring (3806). The cam (3820) includes a head (3808) and a can (3810) (see Murray column 2, lines 53-67). The hinge structure of claim 1 (figure 2A) doesn't include the cam (3820), the follower (3820) and the spring (3806) disclosed in the citation. Murray's hinge (3800) is different from the hinge structure (206) of claim 1 of the invention.

In further reference to Murray's figures 3-4, the hinge (3800) isn't attached to the bottom housing (3800) by means of the fixing device (cam 3820). In other words, the hinge (3800) is attached to the bottom housing (108) by fitting the head (3808) to the socket (3862) of the bottom housing (108) (see Murray column 5, lines 64-67).

Furthermore, Murray's figures 2-4 show that the knuckle (210) isn't formed by joining up a top casing with a root casing. The knuckle (210) includes apertures (3854, 3852). The shaft (3864) of the front portion (110) of the bottom housing (108) is fit to the aperture (3852), whereby the knuckle (210) is attached to the bottom housing (108). The knuckle (210) and the front portion (106) are formed in unity. Therefore, Murray's knuckle (210) is different from the protection casing (221) of the present invention.

Additionally, figures 3-5 of Murray show that the hinge (3800) is inserted into the pocket (3858) of the knuckle (210) (see Murray column 6, lines 22-24) rather than the base unit (108). But, the hinge (206) of the invention isn't inserted into the protection casing (221).

Regarding claim 2, please consider the following remarks. Figure 3 of Murray shows that the head (3808) is used to pass the aperture (3854) and then fit to the socket (3862). However, the head (3808) is not a screw. Additionally, the socket (3862) is not a screw hole. As a result, the head 3808 can't pass through the socket (3862).

In reference to claim 3, figure 3 of Murray shows that the can belongs to the hinge (3800) rather than the display unit (204). Also, the can (3808) does not include any hinge hole.

Regarding claim 4, Murray's figure 4 shows that the can (3808) belongs to the hinge (3800) rather than the display unit (204). The can (3808) and the display unit (204) are separated rather than formed in unity.

Regarding claim 5, please refer to Murray column 3, lines 49-56). The follower (3804) is not a flexible circuit board. Also, the follower (3804) does not include any winding to enhance the flexibility of the follower (3804).

In reference to claim 6 and column 3, lines 49 to 56 of Murray - the follower (3804) is not a flexible circuit board even though the follower(3804) is made of nylon or polyimide.

The amendment was made to expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of the amended claims and reserves the right to re-introduce them and claims of an equivalent scope in a continuation application. If the undersigned agent has overlooked a relevant teaching in any of the references, the Examiner is requested to point out specifically where such teaching may be found.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel at the number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

PERKINS COIE LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan P. Kudla". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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